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ABSTRACT

This annual report summarizes activities of the Alabama Public Library Service (APLS) for the fiscal year 1994. It begins with a letter from the director who gives an overview of the report. Technology activities included installation of a new phone system, purchase of a digitized fax microform reader-printer, new booking/cataloging system for the Audio-Visual department, and the formation of an automation committee. APLS began a major building renovation, rearranged the Blind and Physically Handicapped Division for better access, and completed the second phase in installing compact shelving in the warehouse. In the area of training, workshops were conducted on reference, interlibrary loan, copyright, censorship, and the Internet. Circulation and reference statistics are provided. "Al's Wacky Summer Vacation," the 1994 summer reading program, attracted 45,290 children. APLS funding was distributed as follows: 49% state aid to libraries; 30% state-agency operations; 14% federal grants; and 7% federal-agency operations. The names of libraries receiving state aid in 1994 are listed, including amount of aid. (MAS)

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TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

ALABAMA PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE

1994 Annual Report

IR055688

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Librarians:

In Fiscal Year 1994, the activities of the Alabama Public Library Service can best be described as ambitious. The physical environment of the agency both internally and externally began to change at the beginning of the fiscal year to reflect an updated look. These activities to make over APLS will continue into FY 1995.

APLS planned and implemented new technologies for staff and public libraries. A new telecommunications system was installed, as was an automated acquisitions system, a media booking system, and Internet access. Planning began for replacement of the CLSI library system with a state-of-the-art integrated automated library system and for the installation of a local area network to connect existing automated systems so that staff will have total access to the resources they need to provide services to our customers.

APLS continues to strive for excellence in the services we provide to public libraries, state employees and to the citizens of Alabama. We have allocated our staff and fiscal resouces to best accommodate our goals.

On behalf of the APLS staff, I am pleased to present to you this annual report.

Patricia L. Harris

FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD CHAIRMAN

The goal of the Alabama Public Library Service is to serve the citizens of Alabama through their public libraries. The members of the Executive Board are committed to providing quality library service to all citizens of Alabama.

Library services have been revolutionized by the technological advancements that are now available. The Executive Board commits itself to ensure that public libraries have access to these technologies through access to APLS and from grants for library development and state aid funds.

Bragg Comer

TECHNOLOGY

It was the key word for FY 1994 at the Alabama Public Library Service as the agency began to plan and implement new automation systems throughout the building. The chief focus was to improve services by updating our methods of serving the public libraries of Alabama.

A new phone system was installed when the old one could not accommodate the new area code assigned to South Alabama. The new system allows patrons direct access to service providers instead of being routed through an operator.

The agency purchased a new digitized fax microform reader-printer that faxes directly from the microform to another location, saving time and materials.

An automation committee, including staff from every division, was formed and given two major tasks. The 12-member committee was to make a recommendation for a LAN-based system to replace the DPS mini-computer operation and for an integrated library system to replace the current circulation system.

After months of study, the committee's recommendations were accepted. By the end of the fiscal year, the LAN system had been ordered and was to be installed in the next fiscal year. The new system will allow staff to have databases -- both traditional and CD-ROM, the circulation system, Internet capabilities and other technology at their fingertips. The committee's recommendations for the library's circulation system carried over into fiscal year 1995.

The Audio-Visual Department installed a new booking/cataloging system which allows faster video services to the library community.

RENOVATIONS

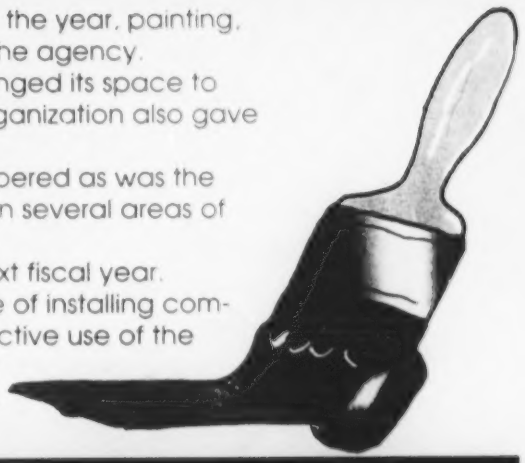
APLS began a major renovation of the building during the year, painting, wallpapering and replacing 19-year old carpet throughout the agency.

The Blind and Physically Handicapped Division rearranged its space to make the area more accessible to disabled visitors. The reorganization also gave a more compatible office area for staff.

The administrative offices were repainted and wallpapered as was the agency's conference room. New carpet has been installed in several areas of the building.

The agency's facelift will be completed during the next fiscal year.

Also during the year, BPH completed its second phase of installing compact shelving in its warehouse. The shelving allows more effective use of the warehouse space when storing flexible discs and recordings for patrons of the Blind and Physically Handicapped Division.



TRAINING

APLS staff conducted workshops across the state on reference and interlibrary loan services, continued from FY 1993. Librarians also attended ALICAT CD-ROM training sessions at APLS. When necessary, staff visited libraries to train their staff and board members. Staff attended various workshops around the state to update their training.

Also during the year, APLS cosponsored seven workshops with the Southeastern Library Network. For these workshops, APLS subsidized registrations for public library staff and board members and APLS staff. Workshops included two on copyright, two on censorship and three on an Internet Overview.

In the Blind and Physically Handicapped Division, a workshop was held for the Telephone Pioneers to learn how to repair National Library Service cassette machines.

CIRCULATION

The Blind and Physically Handicapped Division serves 3,384 individual patrons and 111 institutions. During 1994, overall circulation of the BPH special format titles rose seven percent above the previous year.

In FY 1994, BPH began serving 792 readers and lost 568 due to cancellation, death or transfers. Disc circulation was up by four percent and cassette circulation was up by 10 percent. Braille circulation was down by seven percent even though the number of patrons remained the same. Walk-in patronage averaged 40 visits per month, while the division circulated approximately 11,400 materials each month.

BPH staff handled 177 reference/referral questions, requested 105 interlibrary loans for its patrons and loaned out 1,837 items for patrons at the subregional libraries.

In the Library Operations Division, Reference staff saw a 58 percent increase in walk-in patrons over the previous year. Reference requests were up 8.2 percent. The recorded reference request fill rate for requests from libraries and state employees who phoned in was 99 percent. The overall fill rate for all requests that could be filled in-house within 48 hours was 70.8 percent.

The library registered 12 percent more new borrowers in FY 1994. Eighty-two percent of title requests were filled with 71 percent of those filled with in-house resources.

Use of CD-ROM databases made answering some of the requests easier. OCLC First Search was added during the year and the Internet was used to locate specific titles and runs of periodicals.

The Audiovisual Department phased out the circulation of 16mm films to concentrate on videotapes instead. At the beginning of fiscal year 1995, films were to be distributed to those libraries requesting them via a lottery system.

A new video catalog was published during the year. Video circulation grew by 136 percent from FY 1993. By the end of the fiscal year, 2,044 video titles were in the collection. There was a 102 percent increase in the number of times videos were shown with a 100 percent increase in the number of viewers. Staff anticipates continuing increases in video usage.

SUMMER LIBRARY PROGRAM

AL'S WACKY SUMMER VACATION

1994 Summer Library Program

During the summer of 1994, 45,290 children registered at 189 public libraries across the state. More than 25,000 youngsters were awarded certificates for completing the program. The children read 862,279 books.

Participating libraries sponsored 2,842 programs for children. Attendance at library activities promoting the summer library program theme totalled 633,247.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

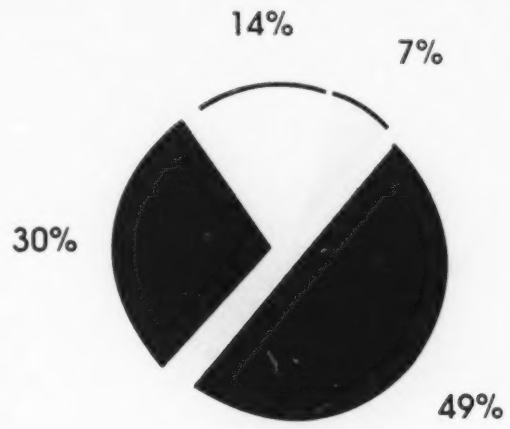
The APLS Executive Board approved grants of Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) funds under Title I, Title II and Title III to public libraries, library systems and state agencies.

For FY 1994, the board approved $1,071,222 in LSCA grants. Training grants were awarded to eight parttime students for graduate study in library science.

A total of $4,646,483 or $1.15 per capita was awarded in State Aid for FY 1994. Page 6 includes a breakdown of state aid totals.

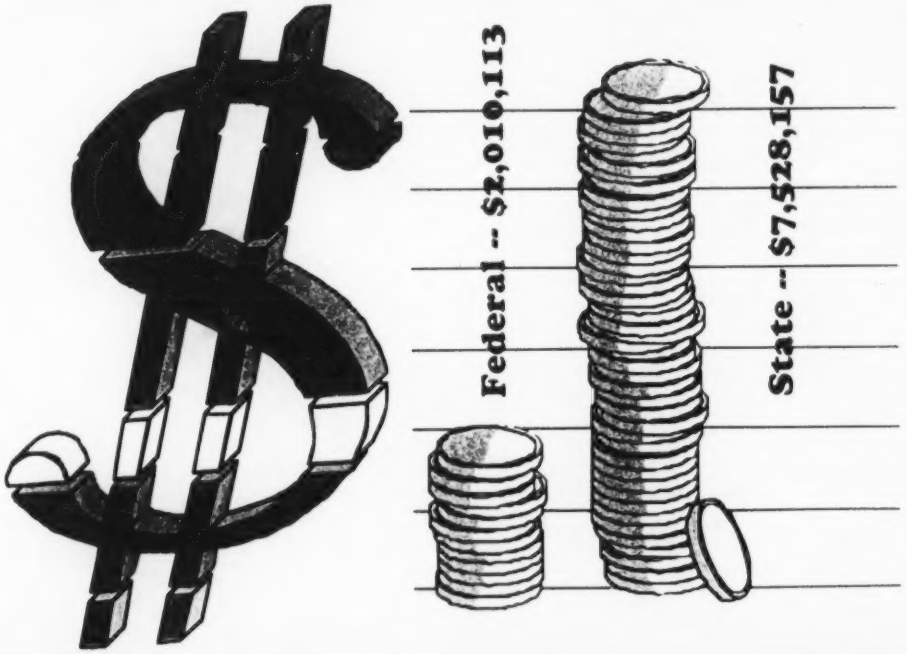
More than 60 percent of total funds received by APLS are returned directly to the libraries in the forms of grants, continuing education, materials and other services.

APLS FUNDING DISTRIBUTION



- State Aid to Libraries $4,646,483
- State-Agency Operations $2,881,674
- Federal-Grants $1,331,442
- Federal-Agency Operations $678,671

APLS FUNDING $OURCES



LIBRARIES RECEIVE STATE AID IN 1994

Akron Public Library	$ 540.00
Anniston-Calhoun County Public Library	124,178.00
Autauga-Prattville Public Library	39,458.00
B. B. Comer Memorial Library	65.00
Baldwin County Library System	104,855.00
Barbour County Library Cooperative	29,305.00
Birmingham Area Library Service	755,092.00
Brent-Centreville Public Library	19,112.00
Carl Elliott Regional Library	103,449.00
Cheaha Regional Library	135,074.00
Cherokee Public Library	6,501.00
Chilton-Clanton Public Library System	37,424.00
Choctaw County Public Library	18,469.00
Citronelle Memorial Library	4,233.00
Clarke County Library Development	31,407.00
Cross Trails Regional Library	131,441
Cullman County Public Library	77,957.00
Dekalb County Public Library	962.00
Escambia County Cooperative Library	16,204.00
Evergreen-Conecuh County Public Library	2,710.00
Fayette County Memorial Library	718.00
Florence-Lauderdale Public Library	
Foley Public Library	
Gadsden-Etowah County Public Library	
Greene County-Eutaw Public Library	
Greenville-Butler County Library	
H. Grady Bradshaw Chambers County Library	42
Hale County—Greensboro Library	3,51
Hayneville-Lowndes Library System	13,656.00
Helen Keller Public Library	14,495.00
Henry County Library Authority	17,726.00
Horseshoe Bend Regional Library	214,738.00
Houston-Love Memorial Library	93,774.00
Huntsville-Madison County Public Library	275,462.00

Ina Pullen Smallwood Memorial Library	$ 7,666.00
Leighton Public Library	5,934.00
Macon County-Tuskegee Public Library	28,742.00
Marengo Library System	26,616.00
Marshall County Cooperative Library	81,668.00
Mildred B. Harrison Regional Library	110,666.00
Mobile Public Library	382,280.00
Monroe County Public Library	27,635.00
Montgomery City-County Public Library	241,072.00
Opp-Covington Topia Public Library	2,832.00
Moundville Public Library	1,554.00
Muscle Shoals Public Library	15,877.00
Northwest Regional Library	84,582.00
Oneonta Public Library	45,252.00
Pell City County Public Library, Inc.	57,226.00
Library Development	14,711.00
Russell County Public Library	54,029.00
Pickens County Cooperative Library	23,866.00
Pike County Library Cooperative	31,817.00
Prichard Public Library	39,560.00
Robertsdale Public Library	2,768.00
Scottsboro Public Library	55,108.00
Selma-Dallas County Public	55,493.00
Sheffield Public Library	16,763.00
St. Cla Library	57,660.00
Sumter brary System	18,648.00
Talladeg	20,956.00
	173,550.00
	12,731.00
	19,248.00
Wheeler Basin	214,099.00
White Hall Public	939.00
Wilcox County Libra	15,644.00

APLS Executive Board

Bragg Comer II, Chairman
Virginia Doyle
Janice Franklin
William T. Harrison
Martha Hosey
Bobby Junkins
Mozel Roper

APLS Director

Patricia L. Harris

APLS Division Directors

Fred Neighbors, *Library Development*
Jim Dismukes, *Business Office*
Don Hart, *Support Services*
Alice Stephens, *Library Operations*
Fara Zaleski, *Regional Library for the Blind & Physically Handicapped*

Alabama Public Library Service
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Montgomery, Alabama 36130

Paid for in part with Library Services and Construction Act funds.

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